**WHAT IS A WATERSHED?**

A region that drains into a particular body of water, such as a river, pond, lake or ocean, is known as a **drainage basin** or **watershed**.

**WHAT IS THE MUSKOKA WATERSHED COUNCIL?**

It's a group of people who care about the health of Muskoka’s watersheds. An important activity of MWC is to promote practices that respect the environment by not damaging Muskoka’s natural landscapes.

**ARE YOU AWARE OF STRESSES ON THE LAND AND WATER AROUND YOU?**

Is there evidence of erosion on your shoreline or river-bank? Have you noticed a reduction in the numbers or diversity of wildlife on your lake or in your woodlot? The Clean & Green 13 is a list of some positive steps that you can take right now to improve the health of Muskoka’s watersheds.

Please visit [www.muskokawatershed.org](http://www.muskokawatershed.org) for details on how these actions protect your watershed.
I want my watershed to be Clean & Green, therefore I will:

Protect Air Quality:
1. Reduce my gasoline consumption.
2. Buy fuel-efficient engines (in vehicles, lawn mowers, snowmobiles, etc.).

In My House/Cottage:
3. Inspect my septic tank every 2 to 3 years & have it pumped regularly, as appropriate.
4. Use phosphate-free soaps & alternative cleaners such as baking soda & vinegar.
5. Take paint, batteries, aerosol cans and oil to hazardous waste depots for disposal.
6. Recycle & compost in order to reduce my household garbage to 1 bag or less per week.

On My Property:
7. Reduce or eliminate my use of chemical fertilizers.
8. Preserve the natural vegetation & trees on my property.
9. Handle fuel, oil & other chemicals with great care & have an action plan to deal with any spills that occur.

On My Shoreline:
10. Ensure that my dock(s), boathouse & other structures do not occupy more than 25% of my shoreline.
11. Leave the remaining 75% (or more) of my shoreline in its natural state.

When Using Watercraft, Snowmobiles or Other Engines:
12. Prevent erosion by reducing boat wake effects on shorelines.
13. Buy a 4-stroke engine in any future boat or other recreational vehicle purchase.